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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,112	03/11/2004	Stephen Rawle	00216-624001 / Case 8125	5924
26161	7590	11/25/2005	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			PAYER, HWEI SIU CHOU	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,112

Applicant(s)

RAWLE, STEPHEN

Examiner

Hwei-Siu C. Payer

Art Unit

3724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## Detailed Action

### Drawings Objection

1. The drawings are objected to because in Fig.4, reference numeral "200" has not been described in the specification.
2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the blade tangent angle (cited in claim 6), the negative exposure (cited in claim 7) and positive exposure (cited in claim 8) must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### **Objection to the Specification**

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- (1) On page 1, line 28, “said the blade” should read --the last blade--.

- (2) On page 2, line 9, "to too large" does not make sense.
  - (3) On page 2, line 26, "24" is not found in any drawings.
  - (4) On page 3, reference numeral "406" has been given two different designations as "platform portion" (at line 3) and "cutting edges" (at line 6).
  - (5) On pages 3 and 4, reference numeral "408" is not found in any drawings.
  - (6) On page 4, line 11, reference numeral "450" is not found in any drawings.
  - (7) On page 4, line 13, "412" should read --414--.
- Appropriate correction is required.

### **Claims Objection**

Claims 5 and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 5, line 2, "0.0" should read --0--.

Appropriate correction is required.

### **Claims Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilder et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0144404).

Gilder et al. disclose a shaving razor blade unit comprising a housing (10), a shaving surface defined by a group of parallel blades (19,20,21,22) supported by the housing (10), the blades (19,20,21,22) being mounted on support members (28) that are movably mounted on the housing (10). The shaving razor blade unit of Gilder et al. can be a three-blade shaving unit (see Fig.5) or a four-blade shaving unit (see Fig.8). In both cases, the inter-blade span (S2 and S3 for three blades, see Fig.5) and (S2,S3,S4 for four blades, see Fig.8) can be 1.11 mm (see paragraphs [0025] and [0031]) regardless the numbers of the blades, and the exposure of blades between the first blade and the last blade is approximately 0 degree.

In view of this fact, one skilled in the art who wishes to provide the four-blade shaving unit (Fig.8) of Gilder et al. with an additional blade (for the purpose of providing an additional cutting surface to reduce overall shaving time) would have known to keep the inter-blade span at a constant value (i.e. 1.11 mm) as suggested by Gilder et al. Therefore, the claimed limitation of "the distance from the cutting edge of a first blade of said group to a last blade of said group being between 3.8 mm and 4.6 mm" is met (i.e.  $1.11 \text{ mm} \times 4 = 4.44 \text{ mm}$ ).

With regard to claims 2 and 3, it is well known in the art the length of the inter-blade span affects the overall size and the rinsing efficiency of the blade unit. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to further modify Gilder et

al. by selecting a desirable range for the blades distance to achieve a desirable size of the blade unit and yet not to jeopardize the rinsing efficiency thereof.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilder et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0144404) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Trotta (U.S. Patent No. 4,407,067).

Gilder et al. '404 as modified shows all the claimed structure except it is silent about the range for the blade tangent angle.

Trotta shows a razor unit comprising a group of blades (40,44) each having a blade tangent angle of between 21 to 22 degrees (see Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to further modify Gilder et al. '404 by having the blades at a tangent angle of between 21 to 22 degrees to achieve a close and safe shave as taught by Trotta.

4. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilder et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0144404) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Gilder et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,777).

Gilder et al. '404 as modified shows all the claimed structure except the exposure of the first and last blades is not as claimed.

Gilder et al. '777 show a blade unit comprising a first blade (11) having a negative exposure (EXP  $-0.04$ , see Fig.2) and a last blade (13) having a positive exposure (EXP  $+0.06$ , see Fig.2).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to further modify Gilder et al. '404 by having the first blade arranged at a negative exposure and the last blade arranged at a positive exposure to reduce the drag forces during shaving as taught by the '777 reference.

### **Prior Art Citation**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Rawle is cited as art of interest.

### **Point of Contact**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hwei-Siu C. Payer whose telephone number is 571-272-4511. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for official communications and 571-273-4511 for proposed amendments.



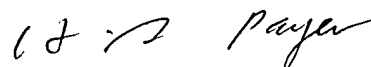
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H Payer

November 22, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hwai-Siu Payer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hwai" and last name "Payer" being more distinct than the middle name "Siu".

**Hwai-Siu Payer**  
**Primary Examiner**